Wernersville Public Library
100 North Reber Street, Wernersville Pa 19565
Berkslibraries.org/branch/Wernersville

Youth Services Policy

Children of all ages are welcome to use the Wernersville Public Library.

In order to provide a safe and constructive environment for all patrons, the following policy has been adopted.

The Wernersville Public Library recognizes that ultimate responsibility for the welfare and behavior of children in the Library rests with the parent/guardian or assigned chaperone.

Though the Staff will always respond with care and concern, they cannot act in loco parentis nor can they assume responsibility for a child's safety and welfare, especially when the child is unattended.

Children under age 9 must be accompanied by a responsible adult, defined as a person 18 years of age or older. The parent or caregiver must remain with the child at all times during the Library visit. The parent or caregiver must never leave the building without the child. Should the parent or caregiver choose to disregard this policy, the proper authorities will be called. If a parent is under the age of 18, that parent will be accorded the same duties, responsibilities, and expectations of an adult.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for the behavior of their child. Should the child violate the Code of Conduct established by the Department and/or the Library and posted in the Department, the parent will be expected to remove the child from the premises until the child can meet the guidelines established by the Library.

Children ages 9 to 17 may use the Library unattended provided they adhere to the rules and policies of the Library. Should they choose to violate the rules, they will be asked to leave the premises. Per School Time Curfew, school age children may not be in the library during school hours unless accompanied by a parent/guardian/caregiver.

A librarian should be consulted about library use for home school or cyber school students. The Wernersville Public Library is not a licensed day care facility and cannot be used as such. Therefore, after 4 hours, a child may be asked to leave the Library.

In the event a child is present at closing time, every effort will be made to locate the parent/guardian or caregiver. If a responsible adult does not arrive within 10 minutes after closing time, the police will be called.

Safety and security for children and teens is of paramount importance to library staff. Adults without children may be asked to use another part of the library. The Wernersville Public Library has a Child Abuse Prevention Policy. All Wernersville Public Library staff and volunteers are Mandated Reporters as identified under Pennsylvania law.

All Wernersville Public Library employees have the following clearance and training on file:

- **PA Criminal Background Check**
- **FBI Fingerprint Clearance**
- **Child Abuse Clearance**
- **Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Mandated and Permissive Reporting in Pennsylvania**

Adopted and approved 5/14/24